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# Illinois man pleads guilty in Niles Saylor's Pizza crash

**By DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — The Illinois man who fled police and crashed into Saylor's Pizza in Niles pleaded guilty Wednesday to two felony charges in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse. The crash ignited a fire and caused significant structural damage to the building.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Kate Arnold reported that Jaquan Deon Chestnut, 21, of Chicago Heights, Ill., pleaded guilty to third degree fleeing and eluding police and resisting and obstructing police during a pre-exam conference Wednesday morning.

Chestnut

Chestnut had been arraigned on those charges as well as having no operator's license last week. If he had not pleaded to charges Wednesday, he would have faced a preliminary hearing on the charges next week and a trial at a later date. The no operator's license charge was dismissed.

Arnold said Chestnut remains in jail in lieu of $20,000 cash or surety bond. He has agreed to pay restitution to Saylor's in an amount yet to be determined. His sentencing date is set for Dec. 30.

Chestnut was arrested last week for the incident occurring Sept. 24.

The incident began in Bertrand Township when a Berrien County Sheriff's Office deputy was on patrol on US-12 and observed a vehicle driving at an excessive speed. The deputy attempted to initiate a traffic stop but the suspect vehicle then fled from the attempted traffic stop and the deputy gave chase engaging in a brief vehicular pursuit.

The pursuit ended when the suspect vehicle lost control attempting to negotiate a curve and crashed into a commercial building in the 300 block of Lincoln Ave. in the City of Niles. The suspect was the sole occupant of the vehicle and sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect was taken into custody without incident at the scene of the crash.

Police initially reported that the vehicle he was driving was stolen but proved to not be the case. The vehicle is however connected to an unrelated crime in Evergreen Park, Ill.

# Buchanan approves SMCAS assessment

**By DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — The Buchanan City Commission is proposing a lower than expected assessment amount for city residents to pay to support the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service.

The final vote on approving the assessment rolls and set the assessment will come after a public hearing at the commission's Oct. 14 meeting.

Commissioners held a special meeting Monday morning to talk about the SMCAS assessment and set the public hearing. They also talked about the future of the ambulance service and voted on an amendment to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application made earlier this year.

Commissioners had voted a week ago to re-establish the special assessment district for SMCAS. The proposal then had been to assess all residential units and commercial/industrial parcels $40 this year and then raising it until it is $50 per unit/parcel in five years.

Owner municipalities pay their share of SMCAS expenses on a per capita basis. This year, municipalities are choosing a variety of means to pay their shares of SMCAS operations: special assessments, payments out of the general fund, a mix of the two to lower the assessment amount as well as a small millage levy.

Monday, Commissioner Dan Vigansky proposed a $25 a year assessment for the next five years and take the remaining amount owed out of the general fund. The commission had paid the entire amount out of the general fund last year because they started the process too late to get it on the winter tax bills.

"I'm trying to find a compromise here," Vigansky said. "I don't agree with it (the assessment) but there's nothing much we can do with our screwed up health system. If the city has some skin in the game with it coming out of the budget, we may pay more attention to their expenses."

The motion passed on a 3-2 vote with Vigansky, Raquell George and Larry Money voting yes. Patrick Swem and Mark Weedon voted no.

Besides talking about the assessment, commissioners and SMCAS Executive Director Brian Scribner also talked about other ambulance related topics including the service's contracts with Cass County municipalities, a possible merger with Medic 1 and the future of ambulance service in general.

Scribner noted that SMCAS has contracted with Milton and Pokagon Townships for a number of years and last year began serving the rest of Cass County when their ambulance service pulled out unexpectedly. He said those communities including Dowagiac and Cassopolis are paying a higher subsidy amount than the owner municipalities or Milton and Pokagon.

As he put it, there is a lower call volume in Cass so being ready to answer calls is more expensive which results in them paying more. SMCAS has ambulances at two municipally owned buildings in Dowagiac and Cassopolis and provide the staffing.

**See SMCAS,** Page A8

# APPLE FEST SUCCESS

## Niles hosts 52nd annual Four Flags Area Apple Festival

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The 52nd annual Four Flags Area Apple Festival successfully concluded last weekend, leaving attendees and organizers thrilled with the turnout and events.

The four-day festival kicked off last Thursday and concluded Sunday, Sept. 29 and featured multiple carnival rides, a parade, free entertainment, including musical performances and the opportunity to participate in apple-inspired games and activities, like pie-eating contests and peeling.

"It went very smoothly," said Apple Festival President Mike Hubbard. "It was a very successful weekend. A little bit of rain sprinkle kept the dust down, we had great crowds and

**See APPLE,** Page A8

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# SMC hosts annual Futures Fair

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College's career-exploration Futures Fair Sept. 25 was designed to help SMC students discover academic programs and career pathways.

This year's theme, "Choose Your Adventure," encouraged students to take actionable steps toward advancing career goals.

The expo featured representatives from six key industries who provided insight into skills and qualifications needed to enter their fields.

Students had the chance to learn about unique professional-development opportunities, such as company tours, job shadowing, mock interviews and even work experience.

In today's rapidly-evolving workforce, technology plays a critical role. SMC's Office of Career Development asked each industry representative to highlight how technology is transforming their fields, ensuring students are aware of technical skills necessary for success.

"Planning is a really important part to being successful," Career Development Manager Melinda Stockwell said. "If you fail to plan, you're planning to fail. Careful preparation and support from others sets

**See FAIR,** Page A8

6 54708 09550 1

## OBITUARIES

Joan Marie Duncan
Richard E. Waldhouse
Margaret Halliwell
Joyce Papczynski
Suzanne McKee
Andrea Ann Gentry
Keith M. Loder
Mike Wells
Jerry VanDenBerg
Roger L. Sassaman
Glenn Schultz
Frances Moroz

A6

## FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"There is a compelling argument to be made that the weather is becoming more unpredictable through severe change." **A2**

Buchanan earns Senior Night win over Edwardsburg **B1**

# FRANKLY

## TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

**"Pray for the people down south who have lost everything from the hurricane. So many families have lost loved ones. Donate and give thanks that you can."**

**"There is a compelling argument to be made that the weather is becoming more unpredictable through severe change."**

**"At the very least, the VP debate was a reasonable display of mutual respect. It's ok to disagree and I think the voter is fine with that."**

**"I thought Trump said he would debate Harris "any place, any time!" What happened?"**

**"Go Lions"**

**"I don't understand how a prediction for a colder, more expensive winter can be forecasted when we can't accurately predict the weather 'two days ago from yesterday.'"**

**"The TV shows today are garbage. All this "reality" TV stuff is complete nonsense and utterly ridiculous."**

**"The high cost of healthcare is killing us all. We are close to the breaking point for businesses and workers depending on those benefits. Where do the high prices start? Who is first in line to start the gouging and allow the dominoes to fall?"**

**"My neighbor is the best. Cuts my lawn and pays for gas. He won't take money. Thank you for being such a good guy. You make my day, everyday."**

**"If I hit the lottery, I would still live in Southwest Michigan. My friends are here. I grew up here and the leaves are about to change color. I have so much to be grateful for at this point in my life."**

**"Let's all work on removing our ghosts, ghouls, spiders and webs, Frankensteins and Draculas from our front lawns before St. Patrick's Day 2025."**

**WEATHER**

| SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sunny | 30% Chance Rain Showers | Mostly Sunny | Sunny | Sunny | Sunny |
| 75° 63° | 72° 51° | 61° 47° | 63° 45° | 67° 49° | 72° 51° |

# APPLE FESTIVAL GRANDE PARADE ROLLS THROUGH NILES

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Thousands of spectators lined the streets of Downtown Niles to watch the annual Apple Festival Grande Parade Saturday afternoon.

The annual festival kicked off Thursday at the Apple Festival grounds, located at the corner of Lake and 17th streets. Events at the Apple Festival grounds run through Sunday.

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**Dozens of Community members, partners, and friends gathered at the Midwest Energy and Communications SMART Park in Cassopolis Wednesday as Hydro celebrated the expansion and relocation of its technology center from Zeeland to Cassopolis.**

# Hydro opens technology center in Cassopolis

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — A local company has expanded its footprint in Cassopolis.

Dozens of Community members, partners, and friends gathered at the Midwest Energy and Communications SMART Park in Cassopolis Wednesday as Hydro, a state-of-the-art aluminum recycling plant, celebrated the expansion and relocation of its technology center from Zeeland to Cassopolis.

The expanded technology center houses Research and Development experts and strengthens Hydro's capabilities to deliver aluminum products to its customers in automotive, transportation, consumer products and building systems.

Right next to the technology center stands the state-of-the-art aluminum recycling plant which Hydro opened in November last year.

"Our technical resources have been instrumental in our success and growth in the United States for many years. Having this best-in-class technology center next to our newest recycling plant in Cassopolis will strengthen our ability to deliver on our future growth plans at Cassopolis and throughout the U.S.," said Duncan Pitchford, President of Hydro Aluminum Metals USA.

With the technology center located in Cassopolis, Hydro can continue to meet the growing demand for low-carbon aluminum products in the U.S. with appropriate technical resources.

## Enhanced technology, closer to business and operations

The technology center has a state-of-the-art laboratory with capability for advanced testing of mechanical properties, corrosion and metallurgical investigations, and has an updated design to improve process flow and safety conditions for employees.

"The decision by Hydro to invest in their research and development facility here really cements what they told us when they first started looking at Cassopolis, which is they want to be a community partner," said Cassopolis Village Manager Emilie LaGrow. "They want to be a leader in this industry, they want to create sustainability, not just within the aluminum sector, but within the community that they're in and this is proof positive of that. I'm thrilled that under the leadership of President David Johnson here in the village and his vision for and belief that if we invest in ourselves, others will invest in us. This is really that coming to fruition and creating long-term sustainability and opportunities for our residents."

The technology center and the recycling plant are connected by sharing the same administration building, fostering closer collaboration between operators, engineers, technical and R&D personnel. This will not only benefit Cassopolis, but also Hydro's recycling plants in Henderson, KY and Commerce, TX.

As part of Hydro's global network of laboratories and Research & Development centers, the Hydro Aluminum Technology Center in Michigan provides performance testing data to support Hydro's production facilities and customers in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico in offering "high performance" aluminum products into demanding end markets such as automotive.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

The customer support network also includes in-house research scientists in Karmøy and Sunndalsøra, Norway, and university partners in the U.S. and Europe.

"Being part of Hydro's global R&D network is crucial for our work. We run year-long performance testing of our aluminum products to demonstrate compliance with the standards of leading automakers," said Dr. Stig Tjøtta, Head of Technology for Hydro Aluminium Metal. "Additionally, using the knowledge we have gained over decades in serving for example the automotive industry, we can use models that accurately predict the performance of aluminum products in new structural or crash management applications."

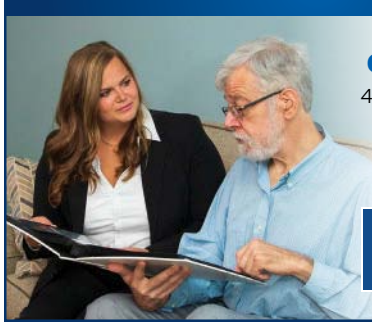
Accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, HATC serves as the only testing laboratory in the Hydro system capable of providing third-party certified testing for strength, corrosion resistance, and other aspects of aluminum performance. In addition to HATC, Hydro also operates a technology center in Troy, Michigan supporting Hydro's extrusion plants throughout North America.

With the Cassopolis recycling plant reaching full capacity, Hydro now has the ability to produce more than 2.2 billion pounds of recycling-based aluminum billet each year in the U.S. Recycling scrap aluminum requires only 5 percent of the energy used to produce primary aluminum, saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Hydro can also produce alloy containing at least 75 percent post-consumer scrap and the lowest carbon footprint in the aluminum industry. Cassopolis also utilizes Hycast's proprietary LPC casting technology to enhance capabilities toward this end market.

LaGrow thanked Johnson, the village council and staff for their efforts to revitalize Cassopolis and drive more business to the area.

"I'm so proud of all the work from the entire team at Village Hall," she said. "President Johnson, his leadership of the council, to have the foresight that we needed to invest and to see that brought to fruition is so exciting. It's a proud moment; I can't wait to see where we're standing next year. Every year, I can't imagine where we're going to go from here and we continue to have the opportunity to imagine more for ourselves and I love that for this community and it's exciting. At the end of the day, this is the greatest job ever."

Celebrate a life



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## PET OF THE WEEK

Meet **Bella**, a two-year-old rottweiler mix from Animal Aid of Southwestern Michigan. Volunteers said her sweetness touches you the moment you meet her. She is a laid-back dog who has done well being around a lot of kids, shows no aggression and would do well in a home with another dog. She is spayed, current shots and housetrained. Contact Animal Aid at (269) 934-SPAY.

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# Indiana man gets prison time for embezzling thousands from girlfriend's mother

**By DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — An Indiana man who stole tens of thousands of dollars from his girlfriend's mother is headed to prison after being sentenced Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Gregory Dean Zellers, Jr, 47, of Lakeville, Ind., pleaded guilty to embezzlement of a vulnerable adult over $20,000 and under $50,0000 and was sentenced to 14 months to 10 years in prison. He has credit for 92 days served and must pay $258 in fines and costs and $53,967 in restitution.

Zellers

He must pay at least $5,000 in restitution before he can be released from parole after getting out of prison.

The incident occurred in March, 2023 in Niles Township. Zellers gained access to his girlfriend's mother's social security checks and deposited them in his account plus stealing other money.

The theft of the funds kept the victim from being able to buy another home and she is now forced to live in assisted living.

Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Vigansky noted that this is Zellers' fourth felony conviction and he received a prior suspended prison sentence in Indiana for a theft related conviction.

Defense attorney Daniel French said Zellers has admitted his wrong doing. French said his client wants to go back to work so he can pay back the money he owes. "If he is locked up, the victim is less likely to get the restitution she's owed," he said.

Zellers apologized for his actions. "I'm sorry for my actions, I was wrong, I made a bad choice," he said.

"Saying you're sorry is not going to give her a place to live," Berrien County Trial Court Judge Jennifer Smith said. "You took her hard earned money and used it for yourself. Not only did you take large amounts of money, but you didn't pay her bills. You are a thief."

"I don't know if you can pay back the money," she added. "You have a terrible work history, your last job was seven or eight years ago. I wish I could trust that if I put you on probation, you would pay back the money and get consistent employment."

Two area men were sentenced to jail Monday.

Corey Dustin Benton, 43, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to two years probation in the Swift and Sure program, completion of the Tri-Cap program, 300 days in jail with credit for 86 days served and $598 in fines and costs.

Benton

He was given a 93 day jail term with credit for 19 days served for contempt of court.

He also pleaded guilty to use of meth and drunk driving and was sentenced to concurrent jail terms of 180 days and 93 days in jail with credit for 86 days served and $300 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred July 5 in Buchanan Township when he assaulted his mother and threw several items around the home.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno said the time in jail had provided him an opportunity reflect on his actions. She said he is very remorseful and knows he has a substance abuse problem. She said he sees this probation as an opportunity to prove he can be successful.

Benton apologized to his mother and said he's getting help.

"I can't change the past but I will work every day to change the future," he said.

Judge Smith said that loving someone is sometimes not enough when a person's sense of safety is taken away.

"This was childish behavior, you had a temper tantrum," she told Benton. "You've violated probation in the past, this is your second chance."

Daniel Joshua Fulsher, 24, of Berrien Springs, pleaded no contest to resisting and obstructing police and disturbing the peace and was sentenced to 180 days in jail with credit for 82 days served on the resisting charge and 90 days in jail with credit for 82 days served for the disturbing the peace charge. He must pay a total of $248 in fines and costs.

Fulsher

The incident occurred Sept. 26, 2023 in Oronoko Township.

French said that Fulsher had stopped taking his medications when the incident occurred.

"The number one thing is that you have to take care of yourself and stay on your medication," Judge Smith said. "Here you assaulted a number of people who were trying to help you. You have some assaultive history and you know what happens when you go off your meds. The last time you assaulted someone with a knife and got jail."

### In other sentences:

• Robert Lee Allred, 53, of Niles, pleaded guilty to fleeing and eluding police and was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for two days served and $258 in fines and costs. The incident occurred July 15 in Niles.

• Bennie Harrison Brown, 43, of Niles, pleaded guilty to use of narcotics/cocaine and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for two days served and $598 in fines and costs. The incident occurred May 7 in Niles.

Brown

• Ryan Nieb, 22, of Niles, pleaded guilty to fleeing and eluding police and was sentenced to 15 days in jail with credit for two days served, 100 hours community service and $618 in fines and costs. The incident occurred May 18 in Niles.

• Sidney Graham Oles, 27, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to attempted altered/forged registration plates and was sentenced to 120 days jail with credit for 49 days served and $598 in fines and costs. The rest of his jail term can be served on tether. The incident occurred July 15 in Niles Township.

Oles

• Marcellus Taylor, 30, of Buchanan, pleaded guilty to attempted fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct and was sentenced to 24 months probation, credit for 60 days served and $1,205 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Nov. 3, 2023 in Buchanan.

Taylor

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
**The Cass County Democrats hosted a candidate meet-and-greet Saturday, Sept. 28 at 144 S. Broadway, Cassopolis.**

# Cass County Democrats host candidate meet-and-greet

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — Local residents had the opportunity last weekend to ask questions to candidates running for positions in the upcoming general election.

The Cass County Democrats hosted a candidate meet-and-greet Saturday, Sept. 28 at 144 S. Broadway, Cassopolis. Attending were Libbi Urban, Congress 5th District; Erin Schultes, Michigan State House 36; Angela Jones, Michigan State House 37; Kimberly Ann Thomas, Michigan Supreme Court; Minnie Warren, Cass County Commissioner District 1; Lois Koel, Cass County Commissioner District 2; Dr. Jim Wierman, Cass County Commissioner District 5; Leon Gilliam, Lagrange Township Supervisor; Jill Meuninek, Ontwa Township Trustee; Jim Pedersen, President of Cassopolis and Della Bundle, Cassopolis School Board.

According to Cass County Democratic Chair Naomi Ludman, approximately 120 people attended throughout the event.

"It was well-attended," she said. "We were hoping for 100 people and got 120 people. We filled all the chairs and tables we had."

Ludman said the goal of the meet-and-greet was to allow community members to meet with candidates and ask questions, as well as emphasize the arrival of absentee ballots.

"The goal was for people to ask questions, talk to candidates, pick up literature and volunteer," she said. "There were people who had not had the chance to meet Urban. We were able to reach out to people who haven't met candidates."

According to Ludman, the energy and enthusiasm surrounding the Democratic ticket has been high.

"The energy level is amazing," she said. "We have 30-40 people come Saturday morning for Donuts with Democrats, we have more people volunteering than we've had in the past. There is a huge level of enthusiasm for the Harris-Walz ticket. We're working hard on our County Commission Candidates because we think it is important to have better representation. We have a two-party system and right now, we have eight Republican commissioners. We think it is time Democrats are represented on the County Commission and we have a lot of enthusiasm for those races.

"We have a really strong candidate for Congress in Urban. She has a strong union background, she was raised on a farm in southwest Michigan. She understands the issues of this congressional district, in both rural and urban areas."

For more information, visit casscountydemocrats.org, call the Cass County Democrats Office at (269) 462-9173 or visit the office located at 204 S. Front St., Dowagiac, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday or 10 a.m. to noon Saturday.

# Brandywine Community Schools board member resigns

**STAFF REPORT**

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — The Brandywine Community Schools Board of Education is looking to fill a vacant position after Thomas Payne's resignation, the second school board departure this year.

Whoever is appointed will serve the remainder of his term through 2026.

According to Superintendent Travis Walker, Payne resigned Friday, Sept. 27 after serving on the board since January 2023. Payne is the second school board member to resign this year following Angela Seastrom, who resigned in June after moving out of the district.

# League of Women Voters provides voter education tool

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

NILES — Ahead of the general elections, the League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties offers the nonpartisan election resource VOTE411.org.

This "one-stop shop" for election information provides Berrien and Cass County voters with simple, accessible tools to help them navigate the voting process. VOTE411 provides personalized candidate information, voter registration details, polling place locations, and other helpful election information for all voters nationwide.

"From local ballot initiatives to important state races, it is crucial voters in Berrien and Cass Counties make their voices heard this election year," said Faith Schoon, President, League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties.

"VOTE411 is the nation's premiere online election resource that provides voters with the resources they need to make an informed vote this fall. The League has published our voter guide on VOTE411 as a resource for all voters in those counties."

With resources available in both English and Spanish, VOTE411 helps millions each year — many of them young people and first-time voters — learn more about what's on their ballot, where candidates stand on the issues, how to find their polling place, and more. The guide is available at most local libraries and via the QR code posted below.

"The League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties is pleased to provide this important, nonpartisan resource to local voters," said Faith Schoon, local League President. "We encourage voters to visit VOTE411.org to make a voting plan so they are prepared to cast their vote confidently both on Election Day and when filling out and Absentee Ballot." Local voters can access VOTE411 from any computer simply by entering VOTE411.org. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Niles Daily Star

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Published Saturday except holidays when the postal service does not deliver mail: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day at 25 N. Second St., Niles, Michigan, by Leader Publications LLC. Periodicals paid at the Niles Post Office, 741 Broadway St. Postmaster: Send change of address to Circulation Manager, The Daily Star, **25 N. Second St., Niles, MI 49120**. Home Delivery by mail is local: $7.50/month, out of town: $10.50/month.

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# COMICS & PUZZLES

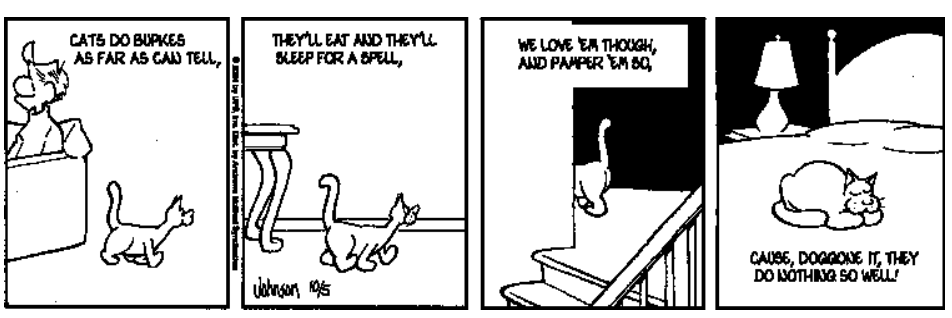
## ADAM

CLAYTON? YOU OKAY IN THERE?
YEP. JUST WORKING ON HALLOWEEN STUFF.
THIS EXTRA WEEK TO SCHEME IS REALLY PAYING OFF.
YEAH. HA. THAT'S WHAT HAS US WORRIED.
ARE WE TALKING "SCOOBY-DOO" SCARY OR "EXORCIST" SCARY?
QUESTION: DO YOU OWN DEPENDS?

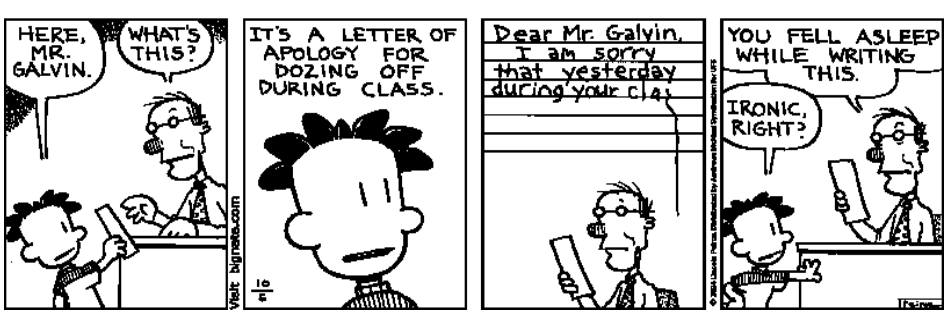
## ALLEY OOP

WHATCHA READING THERE, WEIRD MARY?
IT'S CALLED "THE MOONS OF GX8X8X." I'M INTO SCIENCE FICTION. YOU KNOW, TIME TRAVEL, ALIENS, THE MULTIVERSE.
HMM. PERSONALLY, I PREFER REALISTIC STUFF THAT I CAN RELATE TO.
YOU KNOW, TRAVELING THROUGH TIME, WEIRD CREATURES FROM OTHER PLANETS, ALTERNATE UNIVERSES.

## ARLO & JANIS


CATS DO BUPKES AS FAR AS CAN TELL,
THEY'LL EAT AND THEY'LL SLEEP FOR A SPELL,
WE LOVE 'EM THOUGH, AND PAMPER 'EM SO,
CAUSE, DOGGONE IT, THEY DO NOTHING SO WELL!

## BIG NATE


HERE, MR. GALVIN.
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S A LETTER OF APOLOGY FOR DOZING OFF DURING CLASS.
Dear Mr. Galvin, I am sorry that yesterday during your cl
YOU FELL ASLEEP WHILE WRITING THIS.
IRONIC, RIGHT?

## BORN LOSER

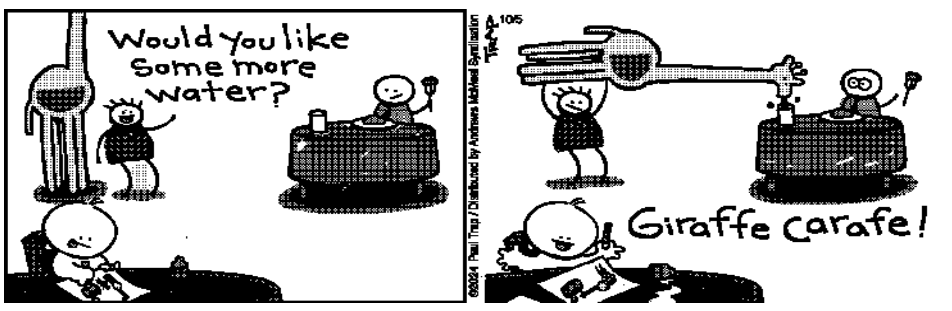
THE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION HAS COMPLAINED THAT OUR GRASS NEEDS TO BE CUT!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE A HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.
FROM NOW ON, CONSIDER ME TO BE YOUR HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION!

## FRANK & ERNEST

## GRIZZWELLS

WHERE'S TICKER?
HE'S SPENDING SOME QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR FATHER.
WELL, OF COURSE YOU KEEP WAKING UP... YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO PACE YOURSELF

## THATABABY

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## SODOKU PUZZLE

**HOW TO PLAY:** Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

**DIFFICULTY RATING:** 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | 2 | | | 5 | 8 | | 1 | |
| 1 | | | | | | | 7 | |
| 9 | | | | 2 | 7 | | | |
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| | | | 9 | | | 2 | 5 | |
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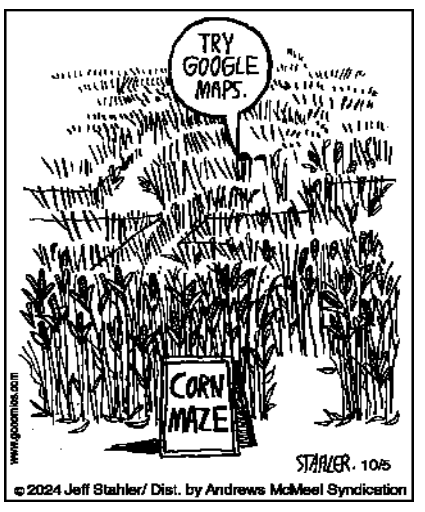
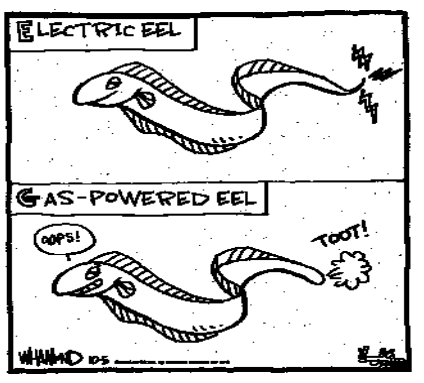
| | 6 | | | | | | | 5 |
| | 4 | | 8 | 6 | | | 2 | |

## MODERATELY CONFUSED




## REALITY CHECK

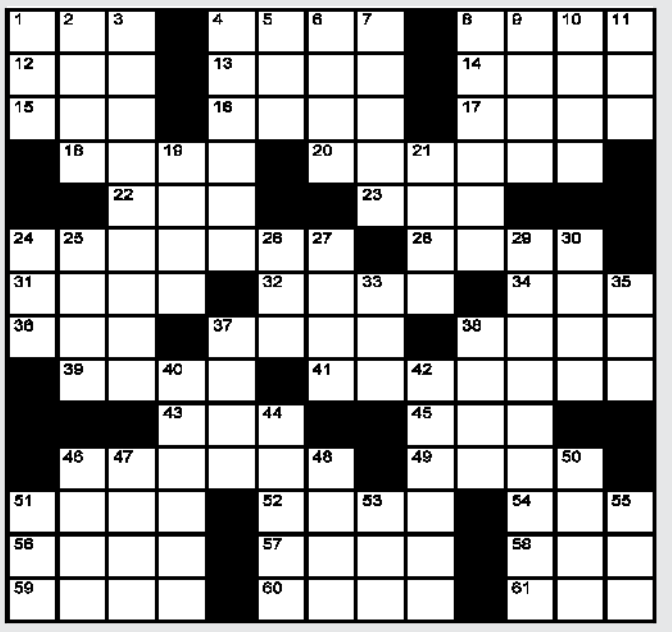



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**
1 Fitting
4 French cleric
8 "— Gynt"
12 That girl
13 "The — Not Taken"
14 Wheel shaft
15 Constellation next to Scorpius
16 Cymbal relative
17 Musician — Lofgren
18 — 500 race
20 Argument
22 — soda
23 Farm denizen
24 Most conceited
28 Scottish girl
31 Genus of olives
32 Bug
34 Garden tool
36 Lacking color
37 Remain
38 Get better
39 Goblet part
41 Merry-making
43 Something sticky
45 Food scrap
46 "The Legend of — Vance"
49 Coral formation
51 Muddle
52 Bit of grass
54 Tear
56 Director — Preminger
57 Anger
58 Baseball stat.
59 Primary
60 Banded stone
61 Morning moisture

**DOWN**
1 Cry of discovery
2 Persian fairy
3 Fleeting
4 Sock pattern
5 Scary yell
6 Combo
7 Lawn tool
8 Canal country
9 Way out
10 Fashion magazine
11 In medias —
19 Comedian — Carvey
21 Ointment
24 Promise
25 "Oh, woe!"
26 Mil. rank
27 Shred
29 In a safe place
30 Go high
33 Reuben bread
35 Isle of —
37 Self-satisfied
38 "Present!"
40 Encourages (2 wds.)
42 Whirlwind
44 Paris' subway
46 Phi — Kappa
47 Wine city in Italy
48 Wreck
50 Discharge
51 May honoree
53 Aviate
55 Furry foot

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



10-5

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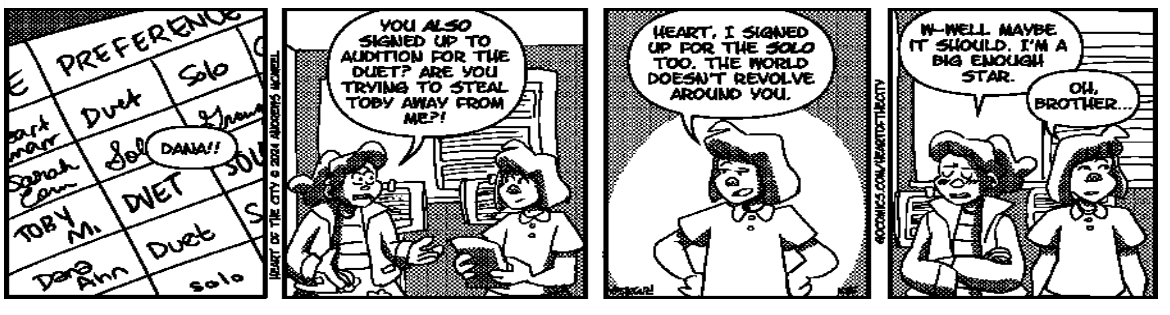
## BREVITY

## HEART OF THE CITY


PREFERENCE
DANA!!
YOU ALSO SIGNED UP TO AUDITION FOR THE DUET? ARE YOU TRYING TO STEAL TOBY AWAY FROM ME?!
HEART, I SIGNED UP FOR THE SOLO TOO. THE WORLD DOESN'T REVOLVE AROUND YOU.
M-WELL MAYBE IT SHOULD. I'M A BIG ENOUGH STAR.
OH, BROTHER...

## DEATH NOTICES

**Joan Marie Duncan,** 82, passed away on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 in Paw Paw, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

**Richard E. Waldhouse,** 69, of Niles passed away Thursday, September 26, 2029 at his home. Arrangments have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

**Margaret Halliwell,** 74, of Berrien Springs, passed away on Monday, September 23, 2024. Allred Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. A private family service will be held. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

**Joyce Papczynski,** 81, passed away October 2, 2024. Funeral is Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 2pm at Brown Funeral Home, visitation at 1pm. Arrangements by Brown Funeral Home, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

## OBITUARIES

### Suzanne McKee

*December 15, 1934*
*- September 27, 2024*

Suzanne McKee passed away peacefully September 27, 2024 in Indianapolis, IN. She was born on December 15, 1934 in Paw Paw, Michigan to Claire and Lydia Webb McKee. Her parents, brother, Claire McKee, Jr, sister-in-law Mary Young McKee, and nephew Claire Heath McKee are deceased. Surviving are nieces Cary Ann Graham, Mary Helen Conley and McKee cousins in Paw Paw, and Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Suzanne received a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics, and worked in Management training at LS Ayres Department Store and Business Design Coordination at Business Furniture Corporation. She was also employed by Indianapolis Power and Light, where she worked in House Services School Programs (kitchen equipment & lighting application) and Adult programs (equipment and lighting application)

She was active in Home Economists in business, American Home Economics Association, Business Women's Association, and Quilting groups.

She was active in the Broadway Methodist Church Singles group and serviced on the Church Board.

She was a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church where she served faithfully for many years, ushered, was active in the Sowers Garden, and served on the Church Board.

Her many interests included quilting, music, and traveling. Sue was a Master Gardner, who enjoyed tending the landscape that surrounded her home.

She will be laid to rest by her family in Niles, Michigan.

We would like to thank her many friends who spent time with her and the staff at Compassus Hospice for their loving care.

welcome to share memories and celebrate a life well lived. Light refreshments will be available. In lieu of flowers, friends suggest donations be made to Beckwith Theatre Company or the Dowagiac Town & Country Garden Club, both organizations Mike felt strongly about.

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### Andrea Ann Gentry

*August 20, 1968*
*- July 24, 2024*

Andrea Ann Gentry 55 of Kalamazoo passed away July 24, 2024.

Born August 20 1968 in Niles to James and Hilda (Kiem) Gentry, who preceded her in death.

Andrea graduated from Dowagiac Union High and Western Michigan University.

Andrea was a school teacher, card dealer, and music lover. Playing saxophone with 3 jazz bands for over 25 years, 2 of which she was a founding member.

A celebration of Andreas life will be held March 1, 2025 at Hidden Point Event Hall in Benton Harbor from 1-5pm.

Donations in Andreas name may be made to South shore Concert Band PO box 939 Bridgeman, MI 49106.

### Jerry VanDenBerg

*April 23, 1943*
*- September 26, 2024*

Jerry Lee VanDenBerg, 81, of Niles, died peacefully Thursday, September 26, 2024, in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began April 23, 1943, in Byron Center, Michigan, one of four children born to John Sr. and Henrietta VanDenBerg. He married Marty Hostetler July 24, 1999 in Niles, Michigan.

Jerry was a musician, played marimba, drums, and vibraphone. He enjoyed playing the marimba in churches and nursing homes. He loved Polka music and met Marty while dancing. He was in a Polka band with his brothers, had a Polka show out of South Haven, and was a mobile deejay. He enjoyed working in the yard and just generally being outdoors and enjoyed fishing. Jerry would always find ways to help others and joke around. He enjoyed tinkering and dabbled in wood working. He and Marty traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, the Caribbean, and several states.

Jerry will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of twenty-five years, Marty VanDenBerg, who resides in Niles; daughter, Rachael VanDenBerg of North Carolina; son, Jeff VanDenBerg of Niles; three stepchildren, Randy Borkholder of Elkhart, Indiana, Larry Borkholder of Columbia City, Indiana, Retha Peterson of Nappanee, Indiana; one granddaughter, Ava; five step grandchildren, Kenneth Peterson, Lindsey Peterson, Charles Borkholder, Elaina Borkholder, Loren Borkholder; one step great grandson, Sebastian; one brother, Morrie (Helen) VanDenBerg of Sodus; his beloved Boston Terrier, Brandy; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, John VanDenBerg, Jr., Jay VanDenBerg; and stepson, Kevin Borkholder.

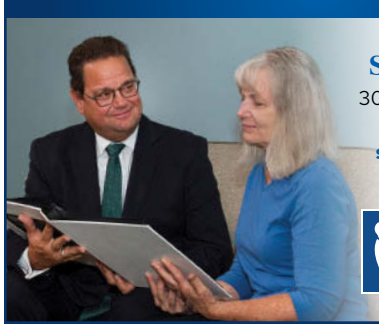
Family and friends will gather Monday, September 30, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles. A funeral service will be held Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in Hope Community Church, 2390 Lake Street, Niles.

Jerry will be laid to rest in Mission Hills Memorial Gardens, Niles.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Jerry be made to the Alzheimer's Association, South West Region, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter, 200 Turwill Lane, Suite 6, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.


*Celebrate a life*



SWEM CHAPEL
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269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

### Roger L. Sassaman

*July 4, 1943*
*- September 29, 2024*

The Reverend Roger L. Sassaman, 81, of Goshen, Indiana and Centreville, Michigan, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, pastor, and friend, was called to his heavenly home on the Festival of Saint Michael and All Angels, Sunday, September 29, 2024 in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began July 4, 1943 in Elkhart, Indiana, the older of two sons born to Carl and Lillian Sassaman. He is a graduate of Elkhart High School, Indiana University and Concordia Theological Seminary. Roger married Pamela Kay Hardwick August 29, 1965 in Elkhart, Indiana. After forty-six years of marriage, she preceded him in death Sunday, May 29, 2011.

After his retirement, Roger pursued his passion for ministry, first as a Deacon and later as an ordained Pastor of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. On April 23, 2023 Roger was installed as Pastor of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Centreville, Michigan.

Roger served honorably in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the American Legion Post 210 of Middlebury, Indiana.

Roger will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his daughter, Tabitha Johnson; two sons, John Sassaman, Timothy Sassaman; seven grandchildren, Drew (Dani) Gates, Nathan ( fiancee Katie Hasse) Sassaman, Dre' Gates, Naomi Kay (Josh) Pettit, Trey Johnson, Payton Johnson, Piper Johnson; eleven great grandchildren, Falynn Gates, Jaylen Gates, Braelynn Gates, Adah Sassaman, True Lee, Rhylyn Fincher, Brinley Pettit, Ahnylee Pettit, Cohen Pettit, Hudson Pettit, Gracelynn Pettit; one brother, Robert (Judy) Sassaman; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents.

Family and friends will gather Friday, October 4, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. until time of service at 1:00 p.m. in Saint Peter Lutheran Church, 1200 Arnold Street, Three Rivers, Michigan with the Reverend Kurt Kuhlmann officiating.

Roger will be laid to rest beside his beloved wife in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Bristol, Indiana where he will be accorded military honors.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.


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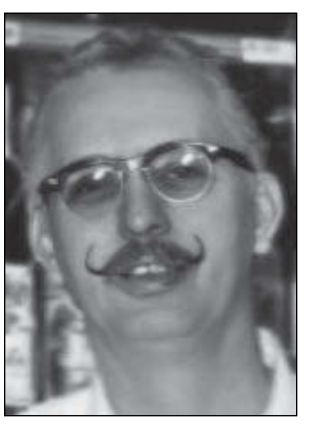

### Glenn Schultz

*September 18, 1928*
*- September 29, 2024*

Glenn J. Schultz, 96, of Dowagiac, passed away early Sunday morning, September 29, 2024, at his home.

He was born on September 18, 1928, in Three Rivers, Michigan, the only child of the late Glenn and Marjorie (Avery) Schultz.

On June 28, 1948, Glenn was united in marriage to the former Mary Lou Keeley. In 1961, Glenn purchased Keeley's Liquor Store in Dowagiac, from his father-in-law, Lloyd Keeley. He was the owner / operator until his retirement in 1979. Glenn was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting. He also enjoyed woodworking and spent many years making clocks.

Surviving are two children - David (Julianne) Schultz, and Debora (Dennis) Collett; five grandchildren - Toby (Michaela) Schultz, Todd (Karen) Schultz, Amber (Anthony) Nutt, Jade (Breanna) Collett, and Diamond (Kassy) Collett; nine great-grandchildren - Sawyer, Kayley, Travis, Adrien, Aurora, Kealey, Brayden, Meladee, and Axle.

Preceding him in death were his wife of 42 years - Mary Lou Schultz on March 1, 1991; and son Douglas Schultz on March 23, 2020.

A Graveside Service to celebrate Glenn's life will be held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at Riverside Cemetery, 400 Riverside Drive, Dowagiac. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Please visit Glenn's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave condolences to his family at www.clarkch.com.


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### Keith M. Loder

*November 29, 1947*
*- September 24, 2024*

Keith M Loder passed away at home on September 24,2024 in Monroe, Ohio.

He was born to Harold M Loder and Vida Elizabeth (Hackett) Loder on November 29, 1947.

He attended Atherton High School in Flint and graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in computer science.

He worked for Associates Finance in South Bend Indiana now known as Citi Group until he retired in 2008.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years Diane L (Shook) Loder, 2 children David M (Wendy) Loder and Wendy (Kenneth) Mayo plus 6 grandchildren.

There will be a memorial service at the First Presbyterian Church at 13 S 4th St Niles on October 19th at 10am.


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### Mike Wells

Michael Wells, 78, of Dowagiac died at The Timbers of Cass County on July 16, 2024. A celebration of life is scheduled for 2:00-5:00 PM on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at the Dowagiac Elks Golf Course & Country Club. Family and friends are


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### CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | P | T | | A | B | B | E | | P | E | E | R | | |
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### SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

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| 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 |

**See OBITUARIES,** Page A7

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA SMITH

Event hostess Brenda Beadenkopf speaks at the Women For Trump rally Saturday, Sept. 28 in Cassopolis.

# Women for Trump hosts Cassopolis rally

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

CASSOPOLIS — The Women For Trump of southwest Michigan hosted a rally Saturday, Sept. 28 at the historic Sinclair Station, 200 S. Broadway St., Cassopolis, the new headquarters for the Cass County Republican Party.

The rally, for Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump, featured area women as speakers, patriotic music, "Women for Trump" banners, t-shirts, hand-held signs and other merchandise. Speakers included Lake Michigan College Trustee Vicki and Wendy Glaser, wife of 5th District GOP Chair J.D. Glaser.

Burghdoff spoke about the opposition and persecution she believes that Donald Trump has had to endure since he first ran for President, while Glaser spoke about the urgency of getting people to vote, particularly church people and hunters – who need to vote early because hunting season is the first week in November. Other speakers emphasized early voting and the theme: Why women want Trump in the White House.

The hostess for the event was Brenda Beadenkopf, author, and former editor of the Berrien County Record. Passersby honked their horns and waved as the event took place. Beadenkopf said the next Women for Trump rally will take place at 2p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Sinclair Station. Speakers will include Susan Walberg, wife of Michigan State Representative Tim Walberg, Allison Lindsey, wife of State Representative Jonathan Lindsey and former Senate candidate Dr. Sherry O'Donnell. Organizers said that men are welcome to come support the women for what they hope will be a "peaceful and patriotic" family event.

For more information, call (269) 683-6478.

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# Pokagon Band of Potawatomi celebrates 30th anniversary of sovereignty

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

DOWAGIAC — The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi proudly celebrated the 30th anniversary of the reaffirmation of its sovereignty.

After decades of fighting to restore their federal recognition, the Band was reaffirmed by an act of Congress, signed into law by President Bill Clinton on September 21, 1994.

Federal recognition, which means the U.S. government recognizes the sovereignty of a tribal nation and confirms the government-to-government relationship between the two nations, acknowledges the right of a tribe to govern itself as it had before European settlement. As a sovereign Indian nation, the Pokagon Band exercises jurisdiction over its citizens and tribal lands, maintains an independent tribal court and police department, and regulates its natural resources.

"Sovereignty Day symbolizes our enduring resilience, cultural heritage, and the recognition of our rights as a sovereign nation," commented Tribal Council Chairman Matthew Wesaw. "This day serves as a reminder of the struggles and triumphs of our ancestors and the ongoing commitment to preserving our traditions and autonomy for future generations. We are honored to celebrate this milestone with our community and reaffirm our commitment to our sovereignty and cultural heritage. September 21 is a testament to our strength and unity as a people."

# OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

## Frances Moroz

*January 1, 1930 - September 28, 2024*

Frances V. Moroz, 94, of Dowagiac, passed away on Saturday, September 28, 2024, at Cass County Medical Care Facility.

A celebration of life service will be held at noon on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at Clark Chapel, 405 Center St., Dowagiac, MI. Burial will follow in Crane Cemetery, Volinia, MI. A time of visitation will take place one hour prior, from 11-noon, also at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cass County Council on Aging. Those wishing to send a condolence online may do so at www.clarkch.com.

Fran was born on January 1, 1930, to Dana and Eva (Hull) Gard in Volinia, MI. She attended Dowagiac Union High School and graduated from Sister Lakes Beauty Academy. Professionally, Fran owned and operated her own beauty shop in Edwardsburg, The Head Shed, for several years. She also managed the Sunshine Beauty Shop at Timbers of Cass County, formerly Chateau and Cardinal Nursing Home. She also was a caregiver to many. She loved doing arts and crafts, and was known as Grandma "Mimi", teaching her skills in making dolls, clothes, crochet blankets, pillows, & doilies. Prior to these endeavors, she co-owned the bait shop and boat rental at Twin Lakes, "Tony's Bait Shop" with her husband. In her early years, she worked at Caruso's Candy Kitchen.

Fran had a wonderful sense of humor and was both spontaneous and witty, all while maintaining her elegance and privacy. She was a talented pianist and enjoyed playing songs at the nursing home in her later years. With a deep faith and love for the Lord, Fran was a proud and devoted mother and grandmother, cherishing time spent with family above all else.

Fran is survived by her children, Toni (David) Janssen, Joseph Moroz, Michael Moroz and Jeanne (Nicholas) Marietti; 9 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Donna Schott, Kenneth Gard, Ruth (Robert) McDonald, Nancy (Edward) Fester, Harold "Jack" Gard, and Carl "Jim" Gard.

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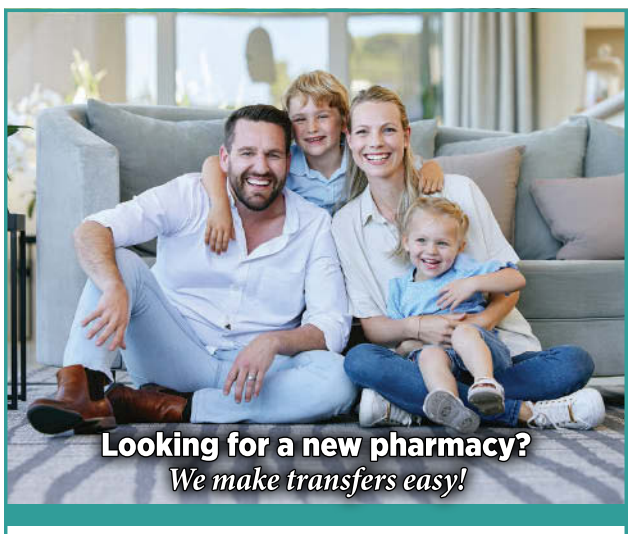
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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Oct. 11-12**
**Fall Rummage, Bake Sale**

First United Methodist Church, 326 N. Lowe St., Dowagiac, is hosting its annual Fall Rummage and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7. Items include furniture, clothing, a complete full-size bed, an extra-long twin mattress and more. Saturday will feature a bag sale for $4 per bag. Buying two bags means the third bag is free. Marked clothing and other items will be half price. For more information, contact Darlene at (269) 782-8551.

**October 11**
**Trivia Night Fundraiser**

The Dowagiac Fine Arts Boosters Club is hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11 at VFW Post 1855. The fundraiser will be used to help provide supplemental materials for arts, music and theater at Dowagiac Union Schools and also provide scholarships for college and arts camps. Cost is$100 per table with up to 10 people per team. Teams are encouraged to bring snacks to share at the table and drinks will be available to purchase at the VFW bar. This event is for ages 21+. There will also be a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and prizes for the top three scoring teams. Registration must be completed by Friday, Oct. 4. To register, call 269-782-9208. Those with questions can call the number above or email fineartsboosters24@yahoo.com.

**Oct. 12**
**Silent Auction celebration**

A silent auction fundraiser of renowned Cass County artist Alice Lewis original paintings and prints, will be held from Sept. 30 to Oct. 12 at the Main Branch of the Cass District Library.

On the 12th, there will be a celebratory reception from 3 to 4 p.m. with light refreshments. Lewis, who passed away in 1987, worked primarily in watercolors. Some of her originals were made into high quality prints. Funds raised from this event will be used for the new Edwardsburg Branch Library.

**October 13**
**Newton House Festival**

The Cass County Historical Society has announced its annual Fall Festival, taking place from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13. The event will be held at the Newton House, located at 20689 Marcellus Highway, Decatur, MI, on the historical grounds. There will be guided tours of the Newton House, live music and a silent auction. Local artisans will be showcasing their talents, and Civil War reenactors will be on site with a cannon firing demonstration.

The event will also feature cider, popcorn, apples, cookies and a variety of activities including hayrides, a petting zoo and kids yard games. A kids costume contest will also be held and new this year is its first annual kids pie-eating contest.

Dowagiac native and author Ron Kirkwood will be in attendance for readings and autographs of his new book on Gettysburg's George Spangler Farm.

For more information, visit the Facebook pages for either the Newton House or the Cass County Historical Society.

**Oct. 19**
**Walkathon**

The Ronda L. Lucas-Sullivan Legacy Foundation is hosting its second annual Walkathon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 at Dowagiac Union High School.

The walkathon is asking participants to come out to walk and help fundraise money for scholarships given to two high school seniors attending traditional or trade schools. This year the foundation is asking participants to find pledges that would like to donate per lap or, if preferred, give a flat rate donation. There are also shirts that can be ordered for the event and gear that will be available for purchase the day of the event.

*Send calendar items to the newsroom at news@leaderpub.com, or drop them off at the office, 217 N. Fourth St., Niles.*

# APPLE

Continued from page A1

turnouts for contests. It's the biggest thing that happens at this end of the county."

Hubbard added that the new apple products building was a "huge success" and that groundwork is being laid for next year's edition of the festival.

"It was a very successful year, we're happy with the turnout," he said. "52 years down and we're hoping to add a great number of years to that number going forward."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

# SMCAS

Continued from page A1

With the Medic 1 discussion, Scribner said both entities are looking at the value of merging. "We've talked about a potential partnership or merger down the road," he said. "I think it would be good and be more efficient, helping us put resources where they're needed. There are a number of things we could do, I'm hopeful that it will work out."

He said another issue both services are looking at is promoting "community" paramedic programs where services partner with hospitals to have paramedics go out in the community and check on people recently released from hospitals. He noted that SMCAS and Medic 1 officials have taken field trips to look at how others have handled mergers and started community paramedic programs.

In other action, commissioners approved amending the trust fund application the city submitted in March to make improvements to Riverfront Park. The city previously received a grant last year to put a handicapped accessible kayak launch at the park.

Community Development Director Rich Murphy said that the city has received preliminary information about the scoring of this year's grant application. He said that while the score for the application is good, he wants to do more to make sure it gets funded.

He suggested and the commission agreed to up the local match for the project from 26 percent to 30 percent. The total project cost is $330,000 and the city will now pledge to give $99,000 rather than $85,800. The grant amount being applied for is now $231,000 instead of $244,200.

The city should find out in December if they are going to get the grant. Murphy said that while the city will budget for the local match in the 2025-26 fiscal year, he will still be seeking to get private donations to pay for some if not all of the local match.

The project got positive comments from three people in attendance. LiveBuchanan co-chair Randy Hendrixson called the riverfront park a "gem" for the community and urged city leaders to invest in the park. Fran Tuite and Peter Lysy also spoke in favor of the project.

In other action, commissioners authorized Swem to contact consultant Frank Walsh about a new city manager search. While City Manager Tim Lynch's contract is slated to end at the end of the calendar year, the commission remains hopeful to retain him beyond that time. The commission's vote related to recruiting a new city manager was strictly related to the long term succession planning for the role.

Lynch served for a few months in 2023 as the interim manager and came back last December after Ben Eldridge resigned after a short tenure that ended with controversy as he was suspended by then Mayor Sean Denison. Walsh indicated then that he would give the city a discount on a new search.

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# FAIR

Continued from page A1

you up to be successful."

Six stations were arrayed around the Student Activity Center for business, social sciences, creative fields, math/science, health services and advanced technology.

American Electric Power, Big C Lumber (represented by 2018 SMC graduate Shawnee Roy), C Wimberley Automotive Group, Corewell Health, Flowers Early Learning ( formerly Tri-County Head Start), Lyons Industries, Michigan Works, Midwest Energy and Communications (MEC), Mid-West Family radio stations and Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service (SMCAS) served as specialists.

At health services, for example, nursing faculty, including Dean Dr. Melissa Kennedy, Athletic Trainer Elise Bancroft, Stryker and Niles-based SMCAS, with satellite stations providing ambulance service to Dowagiac and Cassopolis, shared space.

Stryker's device automating cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was demonstrated.

Nick Bogen studied meteorology at Central Michigan University, then got into geographic information systems development at MEC in Cassopolis, working with drones.

Wimberley Service Manager Kenny Hintz said, "We're always looking to grow in-house talent who will show up for work. I have an SMC graduate who's working on getting all of his ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certifications. I'm seeing his confidence build with more under his belt.

"There are other routes in the automotive industry besides working on cars. I've worked in customer service for a long time, but grew up spending summers at my uncle's shop in Kokomo doing oil changes so I could pay for repairs to my dirt bike. I grew up around guys working on cars, but in the next 10-15 years, I'll need more IT guys than hard-nosed mechanics. A check-engine light can be one of 500 things."

Co-founded in 1968 by longtime SMC Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Dale A. Lyons, with plumbing vents for mobile homes, Lyons in the '70s bought a vacuum former and started producing bathtub surrounds, with robots spraying fiberglass to strengthen products.

The "pathway to power" at AEP converges from all angles, whether engineering, technical trades, finance, customer care or "something that doesn't fit neatly under a label."

Wednesday's representative came out of environmental studies. "Drones configure lines as they go over a community," he said. "Technology is used in advance of power lines going in before they are actually developed, designed, engineered and constructed.

"My passion is the environment," he said. "I was involved in conservation and resource studies in college. After I got my degree, I became involved with doing groundwater samples. From there, I got involved with regulatory compliance, and I found this field more than seven years later and now I'm in permitting, working with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), formerly the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality or DEQ.

"Others majored in communications, construction or forestry. We have a forestry department that specifically trims trees for upcoming power lines. The sky's the limit for getting your foot in the door."

Radio host Jonny Reinhardt studied theatre for his 2012 SMC degree and still sings with David Carew's Chorllennium.

Mid-West Family owns and operates a dozen stations between St. Joseph, Benton Harbor and South Haven, Mich., and South Bend/ Elkhart, Ind.

Reinhardt hosts and serves as program director WYTZ (Y Country, 97.5 FM), moving over from the news/talk/sports station (WSJM-FM, 94.9). Reinhardt also teaches broadcasting at New Buffalo High School.

Chairman Cody Miller promoted his new department, CAMS (Communications and Media Studies), which incorporates graphic design and visual arts with English.

Where there were two paths, literature and creative writing, they combined to experience both for an Associate in Arts transfer degree.

Niles Daily Star
# Sports

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GOLF

## Dowagiac golf wins SAC Lakeshore Division title

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

RICHLAND — The Dowagiac varsity golf team stepped up to win the SAC Lakeshore Division Championship Wednesday at Eastern Hills.

The Chieftains shot 387 to win the event, paced by medalist Rebecca Guernsey who shot a conference-best 75.

First team All Conference Winners: Rebecca Guernsey (Medalist), Carlee Spagnoli - First Team, Jaden Kusch - First Team, Olivia Stockwell - Honorable Mention, Madison Winchester - Honorable Mention.

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FOOTBALL

## Buchanan rolls rival Brandywine 48-8

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES TOWNSHIP — The 65th matchup between rivals Brandywine and Buchanan took place Friday, Sept. 27, with the visiting Bucks coming out on top.

Buchanan used their ground game to grind out a 48-8 win at Brandywine. The Bucks hold a 38-27 record in the rivalry series.

Backup quarterback Lucas Zeiger stepped up to guide the offense in place of Jake Franklin, who did not play due to injury. Zeiger completed 1 of 3 passes for 36 yards and helped the team amass 272 rushing yards. Buchanan outgained Brandywine 308-172 in total yards, including a 272-172 edge in rushing.

"We are proud of our guys," said Buchanan Coach Mark Frey. "We faced some adversity with our first and second string QBs unable to play, but we overcame that and saw a solid performance out of the backfield. QB Luke Zeiger managed a solid game while Leland Payne and Gabe Tompkins ran very well. Defensively, we played well. Brandywine runs a tough offense but our kids played hard and we were happy with the outcome."

Trailing 15-0 in the second quarter, Brandywine responded with a eight-yard Kaden Santana touchdown run. A Carter Sobecki two-point conversion cut the deficit to 15-8

**See ROLLS,** Page B3

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VOLLEYBALL

# BUCHANAN EARNS SENIOR NIGHT WIN OVER EDWARDSBURG

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — The Buchanan volleyball team made sure to make the most of its Senior Night.

The Bucks defeated Edwardsburg 25-17,17-25,25-14,25-15 Monday in non-conference action to improve to 20-2 on the season.

"What an exciting Senior Night," said Buchanan Coach Shelly Bender. "We want to play big games in big district atmospheres and what better team to play than Edwardsburg. I thought we came out with a lot of energy – when you have a lot of adrenaline and then it dies and you just have to regroup and just play your game and I thought our kids really did a good job maintaining their energy the whole time. I know there's highs and lows through every game, but I felt like when we had lows, we were able to bounce back."

The Eddies (7-14) rebounded from a set one setback to take set two but not before starting setter Rylie Rosenkranz left the game after injuring her leg. Led by the hitting of Alyssa Carson and Chloe Aalfs, the Bucks were able to regroup and finish strong.

"We had a little bit of adversity when their player came under and twisted my setter," said Edwardsburg Head Coach Sarah Strefling. "I thought they battled fine for having what they had with a different setter. It's frustrating."

Aalfs had 16 kills and 17 digs and Carson had 15 kills while Emily Holt had 14 digs and Sophia Bachman tallied eight digs and 41 assists. Aalfs, Carson, Bachman, Addy Warmbein, Isabella Tibbles and Italian exchange student Alice Giulianini make up the Bucks' six-member senior class, which has achieved three-straight undefeated conference championships and counting, back-to-back district championships and an overall record of 118-21.

"This group of seniors are just really awesome kids in general. They're great people," Bender said. "They've been really successful, they are competitive and they like to win and that really sets the fire and the tone for everybody else to play at their level. They hold each other accountable and I feel like this year, if they don't like something, they put it right back on the underclassmen saying 'hey, we gotta get going' because this is not acceptable for us.'"

For Edwardsburg, Mya Eberlein had five kills and five blocks, Sarah Pippin 12 kills, 12 digs and one ace. Ella Laskowski tallied 12 kills, 10 digs and four blocks and Rylie Rosenkrantz had 13 assists while Olive Walk added 14 assists and six digs.

"We are just trying to get better," Strefling said. "We've got a young group who are new to positions, new in spots even more so tonight. We play a really competitive schedule and so we were hoping to show up a little bit better tonight but it hurt us after Riley went down. I'm glad we still won the second one but I think it would have been a different outcome if we didn't have that change. Olive Walk stepped in and did a good job for us, but we couldn't pull out the win."

Bender was proud of her

**See SENIOR,** Page B3

**MAXWELL HARDEN** | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

FOOTBALL

# Niles downs Sturgis in 62-0 homecoming rout

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

PHOTOS BY MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

NILES — The Niles football team spread the love around in its Sept. 27 homecoming game against visiting Sturgis.

Six Vikings found the end zone in a 62-0 victory. Niles led 55-0 at halftime and rushed for 482 yards in the game on just 32 carries.

Peyton Gordon tallied six carries for 122 yards and three touchdowns and Elijah Norris had five carries for 55 yards and two touchdowns. Vaughn Asmus (five for 58 yards), Kadarree Guy (3 for 35), Dillon Pearman (3 for 29) and Alex Anderson (1 for 22) found the end zone. Paul Hess had two carries for 56 yards and Sam Rucker had two for 35.

The Vikings defense held Sturgis to 36 total yards of offense, including -28 rushing yards. Ward Cheney led Niles with 5 tackles and Sam Rucker added one sack.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

# Roadrunners split Macomb and LMC in volleyball

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — The Southwestern Michigan Volleyball Team defeated Macomb on Sept. 25 for the second time this season 21-25, 25-15, 25-17, and 25-11.

"Following our win over KVCC last night, we had some specific goals tonight: play clean ball and reduce errors, serves in, play aggressive every point, and play with big energy the entire match," said Head Coach Jenny Nate. "We accomplished that tonight with our 3-1 win. This was a great way to prepare for LMC tomorrow. We need to walk on the court tomorrow with the same energy and goals tomorrow and focus on playing SMC Volleyball and controlling the runs and tempo of the match."

Leading serving scorers for Wednesday: Josie West 14 points, 3 aces; Ryli Burks 10 points; Talan Hiemstra 9 points; Cadence Knight 8 points; Anna Johnson 7 points; Gia Jania 5 points, 2 aces

Kills: Josie West 14, Gia Jania 10, Kallie Solloway 9, Talan Hiemstra 7, Abi Marquis 5, Anna Johnson 1

Blocks: Gia Jania 4, Ryli Burks 1, Talan Hiemstra 1, Kallie Solloway 1

Digs: Cadence Knight 18, Ryli Burks 15, Amanda Jones 13, Anna Johnson 10, Talan Hiemstra 7, Kallie Solloway 3, Gia Jania 2, Abi Marquis 1

Assists: Anna Johnson 24, Ryli Burks 19

Things did not go as planned on Sept. 26 and the Roadrunners lost a tough one to LMC 19-25, 26-24, 24-26, and 22-25.

"This was a very intense match with a large crowd and a lot of pressure; some of our players were able to stay calm and perform under pressure, and some of our players were a little tense which caused us to have more errors than usual," Nate said. "This was definitely a mental game for us, and we have to be able to perform offensively under pressure and attack with intention. We have a mixture of sophomores and freshmen on the court, and our younger players will keep getting better at handling that pressure as we continue on with conference play. LMC had a tough block tonight and were a little stronger on the net than us. We had moments where our energy picked up, but we struggled to control runs, and that makes it really tough to close tight sets. We always learn from a loss, and we will head to the practice tomorrow to make improvements before we travel to Glen Oaks next week."

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Leading serving scorers for Thursday: Anna Johnson 8 points, 1 ace; Ryli Burks 8 points, 1 ace; Cadence Knight 7 points; Talan Hiemstra 6 points, 1 ace; Gia Jania 3 points; Josie West 3 points

Kills: Josie West 22, Ryli Burks 7, Abi Marquis 7, Gia Jania 5, Talan Hiemstra 5, Kallie Solloway 4, Anna Johnson 2

Blocks: Gia Jania 4, Ryli Burks 1, Talan Hiemstra 1

Assists: Anna Johnson 24, Ryli Burks 15

The Roadrunners are now 14-5 overall and 3-2 in conference play.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Notre Dame women's hoops draws TCU, Utah for Cayman Islands Classic

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND — Notre Dame's 2024-25 regular season schedule is now complete.

The Irish announced on Tuesday that the group will play TCU (Nov. 29) and Utah (Nov. 30) in the 2024 Cayman Islands Classic over Thanksgiving weekend. Both games will tip off at 5 p.m.

TCU went 21-12 (6-12) last season. Although the Horned Frogs have not reached the NCAA Tournament since 2010, Mark Campbell is now entering his second season at the helm and has numerous pieces in play to make a run in March. Three graduate transfers are poised to lead the group this year: Hailey Van Lith, Sedona Prince and Maddie Scherr.

Van Lith joined the Horned Frogs this season after three years at Louisville and last season at LSU. She is the only active Division I player with at least 1900 career points, 500 rebounds and 350 assists.

Prince and Scherr both played for Campbell while he was the associate head coach at Oregon from 2015-21. Prince was a finalist for last season's Lisa Leslie Award and was All-Big 12 Honorable Mention after posting 19.7 points, 9.7 rebounds and 2.9 blocks per game. Scherr most recently was at Kentucky where she started 55 games over two seasons and averaged 12 points and 5 rebounds per game.

Notre Dame is 3-0 all-time against TCU, and the teams last met in 2016 as part of a home-and-home started the year prior.

Utah is coming off of a very successful last few years. The Utes have made the NCAA Tournament in three consecutive seasons and reached the Sweet 16 in 2023. Led by head coach Lynne Roberts, Utah went 22-11 (11-7) last season with Alissa Pili, who averaged 21.4 points per game. She has since moved on to the WNBA.

Utah does, however, return several impact players. Junior Gianna Kneepkens averaged 17.8 points per game last year and was named to the All-Pac-12 Team. Point guard Inês Vieira is back for her senior year after dishing out 200 assists last season (13th in the nation). Vieira was named to the All-Pac-12 Defensive Team and was All-Pac-12 Honorable Mention.

Notre Dame is 3-0 all-time against the Utes, and the teams last met in 2011 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The games come in the middle of a daunting stretch for Notre Dame. The Irish play USC just before Thanksgiving on Nov. 23 and open December versus Texas (Dec. 5), at Syracuse (Dec. 8) and versus UConn (Dec. 12). Notre Dame's complete schedule is available here.

FOOTBALL

# Dowagiac earns 63-6 road win over Benton Harbor

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## SENIOR

Continued from page B1

team's performance in a playoff-like atmosphere against an Edwardsburg team that has played against several Division 1 teams.

"I feel like this game right here is what I've been waiting for all season," Bender said. "They played a lot of really good tournaments and with a lot of division one schools, so how are we gonna compare playing somebody who has played a little bit higher level than us? We always love playing Edwardsburg because they're always very competitive."

Both teams are aiming for strong finishes to the season as they prepare to make postseason runs.

"It really is a true test of where we need to go and what we need to improve on," Bender said. "For us, our biggest thing is to stay consistent and sustain mentally in the games. The kids did that in a really big atmosphere tonight so that was really key for me that they could finish and finish on a strong note."

"Our goal is to finish strong in the conference, get better every day and be able to perform when it really matters," Strefling said.

**PHOTOS BY MAXWELL HARDEN** | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

## ROLLS

Continued from page B1

in the second quarter. The Bucks would reel off 33-consecutive points as the physical game took its toll on the Bobcats, who lost five players in the game to injuries.

"It's a miracle our kids could finish," said Brandywine Head Coach Justin Kinzie. "I'm proud of the kids for fighting."

Kinzie said that several players on his team also play for the school's soccer team. He is also in the process of building a Bobcats program from the ground up as the Brandywine enjoys its second year of a youth football program.

"A lot of those soccer players have done a nice job," he said. "You can see flashes and see how far they've come in five weeks."

While the season is not playing out as the team had hoped, Kinzie said he is proud of way his seniors have led the team amid its struggles.

"A lot of other kids walked away right now," he said. "I think my senior leadership has been tremendous. Without them, this team would have collapsed."

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**Fall Rummage & Bake Sale**
**First United Methodist Church**
326 North Lowe Street, Dowagiac,
October 11th & 12th
Friday 9am-4pm &
Saturday 9am-3pm
Sat. 1/2 price sale and $4 bag sale buy
2 and get 3rd bag free.
Furniture,clothing, 2 remote control sailboats and much more!
For questions call:Darlene at 269-782-8551!

### Garage Sales

SAVE BIG BUCKS

**MOVING SALE**
**209 N Philip RD**
Niles, October 3rd,4th & 5th
9am-4pm
Women's clothing, Men's clothing, Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture, Household items, Holiday items, EVERYTHING MUST GO!!! Inside poll barn and outside. Grills, Patio furniture. Pots and Pans, lots of kitchen stuff. Stereo. Blankets, Books, Furniture and clothing. Free box also!
EVERYTHING MUST GO!!! Rain or Shine.

**HUGE YARD SALE!**
**1127 HUNTLEY RD, NILES,**
**October 3rd-6th 8am-until**
Golf clubs & bag, hand & power tools, ladders, rakes, shovels, bikes, furniture, hardware and misc. 574-344-9974

## Merchandise

### Antiques & Collectibles

YOHO'S TREASURE MARKET
INDOOR FLEA MARKET AND MORE!
ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES FURNITURE
***Booths' Available!***
**Now Renting from $75+!**
**Yoho's Treasure Market!**
**1420 S 11th st.**
**Niles, MI 49120**
**Contact Laura Yoho**
**574-323-0423**

### Food & Produce

NOW HIRING COOKS
Breakfast Cooks - Prep Cooks - Buffet Cooks
Great Pay!

Call and ask for Debbie
(269)423-8469 Cell - (269)423-8788 Biz
Hard Times Family Restaurant
Downtown Decatur
(269)423-8788 or (269)423-8655

### Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

**Call (269)462-0183**

### Want to Buy Merchandise

WANTED
STANDING TIMBER
Large Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking land owners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell
Call: (517)566-8061
qualityhardwoodsinc.com

Put your ad here
call 269-591-6105.

## Notices

### General Notices

NEED TO SELL SOME FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, OR EVEN YOUR CAR??
CALL THE CLASSIFIEDS AND ADVERTISE NOW!
269-591-6105

### Community Events

University of Notre Dame du Lac in Notre Dame, Indiana, duLac@nd.edu

## Rentals

### Apartments

Karl King Holdings,LLC
*"Where The City's Finest Call Home"*
NOW LEASING!!!
•Pet Friendly
•Utilities Included
•Income-Based Rent
Apartments for Independent Seniors(62-up, handicap/ disabled)
515 E.Monroe Street
South Bend,IN 46601
574-282-2896
TTY:1-800-743-3333

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

### Houses For Rent

**HOUSE FOR RENT**
**2BR/1BA**
**1207 BARRON LAKE RD. NILES**
**Appliances included.**
**Available mid-October.**
**$800/mth PLUS SECURITY.**
**CALL 269-426-1587.**

## Transportation

### Boats & Watercraft

1979 Starcraft 18' Aluminum Deep V 110hp Johnson & Trailer (269)683-2400

**2015 Polar Kraft TX 165 Bass Fishing Boat**
Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.
If I do not answer, leave a message.
Pictures available via text.
$17,900.00 OBO.
574-850-1938
269-228-1216

### Motorcycles & ATV's

1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12 Touring Bike New Carlisle Area. Good condition. 80k road miles. $2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275 or 574-234-8038

## Services

### Concrete Work

BRADY CONCRETE
Specializing in:
*•Flat work of all types*
*•Seawalls•Pole Barn Floors*
*•Stamped Concrete*
*•Bobcat Services*
Free Estimates, Insured
Fast, Dependable Service
269-445-3349 or
269-591-0100

### Construction

**Michiana Masonry & Construction**
**All your Masonry needs!**
**Chimney Cleaning**
**Insured & Bonded**
**Senior Discounts**
**269-362-1566**

### Handyman Services

**Joe Hess Remodeling and Construction**
**Over 25 yrs Experience**
**Licensed and Insured**
**269-362-3355-Cell**
**269-684-0349-Home**

•Replacement Windows
•Exterior Doors
•Storm Doors
•Minor Electric
•Light Fixtures
•Minor Plumbing
•Most Home Repairs

### Home Health Aides

**CALL US TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD!**
**269-591-6105**

### Junk Removal

**AMERICAN TRASH**
**Trash & Junk Hauling**
*•Appliances•Truck•Trailer*
*•Labor•Rental Properties*
*•Demo Clean-Outs*
Veteran Owned Company
**Txt/Call: 574-904-8760**
**useamericantrash.com**

### Miscellaneous Services

**AUCTION**
Reindbold Online Estate Auction. Bidding opens through 10-16-24. Tractors, tillers, backhoe, farm implements, cast iron stove, power shop tools, forge, collectibles and much more! To bid visit Bid. SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Questions, call 1-800-835-0495.

Macomb County Annual Public Online Auction, 10-26-24, 8 to 4 p.m. Surplus equipment, vehicles, stolen & recovered dump trucks, pickups, vans, sedans, more! CrydermanAuctions.com to view catalog, other auctions. Call 586-784-8890.

Online Auction Taylor: 800+ lots; 2016 BMW-G650 motorcycle, 2004 F-150, Coke machine Mod44, antique Ann Russell Cabinet, Epiphone/ Fender/Squire guitars, Edison Dictaphone, Celestron Telescope60SLT, cameras, Harvard Slate pool table, more! EstateAuctionExpertsMI.com. 313-600-5451.

**BUILDINGS**
BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS State-wide. Prices starting at - 24x40x10 - $18,300.00. 30x40x10 -$20,400.00. Erected on your site. Call for price not shown on any size building or go to www.builtritepolebuilding-smi.com. Or call 989-259-2015 or 989-600-1010.

**BUSINESS SERVICES**
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 800-983-0462.

**MATTRESSES**
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made is U.S.A., in plastic, with warranty. Retail cost $3,995.00, sacrifice for $875.00. Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattress-Man.com 989-832-1866

**MISCELLANEOUS**
AMISH BUILT storage sheds and mini cabins delivered to your site anywhere in Michigan! Starting at $2,500.00 mynextbarn.com 989-832-1866

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-844-587-8518

### Miscellaneous Services

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-815-6233

Want a greener lawn? TruGreens your go-to for a tailored lawn care plan. Act now and get 50% off your first service with a purchase of an annual plan. Call us at 1-855-608-1458 to learn more

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

### Pressure Washing

**J&H POWER WASHING**
**HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS, DECKS, FENCING, RV'S/MOTOR HOMES.**
**WHY CALL THE REST**
**WHEN YOU CAN CALL THE BEST?**
(269) 684-5947
(269) 340-2440
(269) 357-9594

### Roofing and Guttering

**Bill's Roof Repair**
Residential & Commercial
•Repairs•New Roofs
•Shingles•Flat Roofs
•Metal/Rubber•Flashing
•Chimney Repairs
•Vent Pipes•Gutters•Sidings
**Lifetime Warranty on All Labor Performed**
**Free Estimates**
Call Us Now!!
**269-591-5700**
**Visit us at:**
**billsroofrepair.com and Facebook!!**

**MIDWEST ROOFING**
*Family Owned Since 1984*
**Lifetime Warranty Shingles**
**Flat Roofs & Gutter Covers**
**Call (269) 684-7199**

### Timber & Forestry Services

**GRIMES TREE SERVICE**
SPECIALIZING IN STORM DAMAGE CLEANUP AND REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS TREES IN DIFFICULT LOCATIONS.
**269-783-6493 OR 269-716-0241.**
***53 YEARS EXPERIENCE!***
***"A+ REFERENCES"***

### Tree Service

**EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE**
*FREE ESTIMATES!!!*
•TOTAL REMOVAL, TRIMMING & LOT CLEARING.
•STUMP GRINDING
• STORM DAMAGE
•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE, EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
*FULLY INSURED.*
**PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.**

## Public Notices

### Public Notices

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Howard Charter Township**
**Cass County, Michigan**

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO: RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF HOWARD CHARTER TOWNSHIP AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held during a special meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals of Howard Charter Township, Cass County, Michigan on October 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan to consider the application by Joshua & Andrea Gregory for a variance request, at the following location, to construct a pole building within the front yard.
Owner of Record:
Joshua & Andrea Gregory
Parcel Number:
14-020-036-023-00
Parcel Address:
3298 Tiara Trail, Niles MI 49120
Parcel Description: 588C COM S 0 DEG 0'26"W 1318.44 FT & S 89 DEG 38'25"W 2206.14 FT FRM E ¼ COR, TH S 89 DEG 38' 25"W 440 FT, N 0 DEG 10'50"W 1000 FT, N 89 DEG 38'25'E 440 FT, S 0 DEG 10'50"E 1000 FT TO BEG. EX RD ROW DEEDED L677 P967. SEC 36 9.53 A
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that you are invited to attend the hearing and to present your opinions or position relative to the subject of this hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may send a letter stating your opinions or position to: Howard Charter Township, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, MI 49120, Attn: Zoning Administrator.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the application describing the action or relief being sought and the Township Zoning Ordinance #192 is available for public inspection, at the Township Office on regular business days during regular business hours.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days' notice to the Howard Charter Township Clerk of the need for the same. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township by email at depclerk@howardtwp.org, in writing, or by calling the Clerk at the Township office at the address and/or phone number provided below.
Published: 10/05/2024
Linda McGregor
Zoning Administrator
1345 Barron Lake Rd
Niles, Michigan 49120
(269) 684-0072, #3

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**HEARING 10.29.24**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of Niles will be flushing hydrants during the day, starting Monday, October 14, 2024. Flushing will begin at 7:00 A.M. and continue until 4:00 P.M. each day through Friday, October 18, 2024. The City of Niles hopes that the hydrant flushing will not be an inconvenience to their customers. However, some customers may experience discoloration of water and to reduce any problems this can cause, the following advice is offered:

1. Do not wash laundry between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Before you start, run your water until the temperature of the water changes to cold. In doing so, you should be able to detect red water before you start your wash.

2. If you experience red water in your wash, do not dry the load of clothes; leave them wet.
A powder may be obtained at no charge from the Utilities Department office that will remove stains. Do not use bleach to remove iron stains as this will oxidize the stain and make it impossible to remove.

3. Although the City of Niles provides water to your residence, persistent red stains could be coming from your own house plumbing, especially if your pipes are galvanized.

4. You should flush your water heater at least two times a month; more frequently if you have experienced red water.

5. You should apply an approved iron removal chemical to your water softener's mineral bed.

6. Maintain aerators on faucets, and clean inlet screens on washing machines.

7. If you experience red water in your laundry at a time when the Utilities Department office is not open, you can obtain iron removal products at supermarkets and drug stores. If you cannot find polyphosphates, oxalic acid can be purchased at drug stores.

Tentative schedule as follows:

Monday, October 14th, valving will be conducted and flushing started at 17th from Lake St. to Main St. East, and 17th / 13th South to Eagle.

Tuesday, October 15th, flushing will continue at 17th / 13th South to Oak, 13th / 3rd South to Oak, Oak South to Fort, and

## Public Notices

5th North to Pucker.

Wednesday, October 16th, flushing will be conducted from 5th East to Niles River.

Thursday, October 17th, flushing will be conducted from Niles River West, Lincoln, Parkway, Sarka, Ballard Hills, Platt, Kensington, Missions and missions.

Friday, October 18th, Finish Balarney area, flushing will be completed West Chicago to Bertrand.

James Stevens
Water Superintendent
Niles Utilities Department

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**HYDRANTS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Township of Howard**
**Cass County, Michigan**
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Dominion Voting Machine
***Public Accuracy Testing***
*for Precincts 1and 2*
**November 5, 2024 General Election** will be held **Thursday, Oct 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Township Business Office
1345 Barron Lake Road
Public Invited

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**ACCURACY TEST**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ONTWA TOWNSHIP**
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF VOTING EQUIPMENT**

The purpose of this testing is to ascertain that the equipment will correctly tabulate the votes cast in the November 5, 2024, General Election.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Test will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 10:00 AM
The Test will be conducted at: Ontwa Township Hall 26225 US 12 Edwardsburg, MI 49112 THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND
Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**ACCURACY TEST**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Abandoned vehicle auction October 10, 2024 at 8:30 AM. Road Runner towing and recovery.
1994 Cadilac
Vin 1G6DW52P8RR700593
Bedding starts at acquired fees. Contact Road Runner Towing at 269-429-5080 Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM for viewing location
Social distancing rules still apply

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**AV/94 CADILAC**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION**
**Howard Township,**
**Cass County**

**TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF HOWARD TOWNSHIP:**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

THE POLLS OF SAID ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND CLOSE AT 8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024.

**Candidates on the ballot include:**

**President, United Sates Senator, Representative in Congress 6th District, Representative in State Legislature 78th District. County: Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk and Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Drain Commissioner, Surveyor, County Commissioner District 5 & 6. Township: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustee, Park Commissioner, Delegate to County Convention.**

Polling location is handicap accessible, and persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, shall be supplied with Braille or audio instructions upon request.

Absentee ballots can be obtained by contacting Sheri Wozniak, Howard Township Clerk, by calling
269-684-0072.

**ELECTORS WILL BE VOTING IN THEIR TOWNSHIP AT THEIR ASSIGNED PRECINCT**
Precinct #1 - Howard Township Business Office – 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan
Precinct #2 – Howard Fire Station – 2690 Lake Shore Drive, Niles, Michigan

Sheri Wozniak, Howard
Township Clerk
Published 10/05/24

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**NOTICE OF ELECTION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE CITY OF NILES ELECTORS**
**NOVEMBER 5, 2024**
**GENERAL ELECTION**

The City of Niles Election Commission will conduct a **PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST** on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 2:00pm at City Hall, 333 N. 2nd Street, Ste. 301, Niles, MI 49120.
The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Tina Bergman
City Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**GENERAL ELECTION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION**
**ONTWA TOWNSHIP**
**NOVEMBER 5, 2024**
**ELECTION**

**TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF ONTWA TOWNSHIP:**
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. THE POLLS OF SAID ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7:00 AM AND CLOSE AT 8:00 PM ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024.
**Candidates on the ballot include:**
**President of the United States, United States Senator, Representative in Congress 5th District, Representative in State Legislature 36th District, State Board of Education, Regent and Trustee of University of Michigan, Governor of Wayne State University, County Commissioner: 6th and 7th Districts. County: Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk and Register of Deeds, Treasurer and Drain Commissioner, Township: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees. Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals 3rd District, Judge of Probate Court, Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustee, Edwardsburg Public Schools Board Member, Village of Edwardsburg Trustees.**
Polling locations are handicap accessible, and persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, shall be supplied with Braille or audio instructions upon request.
Absentee ballots can be obtained by contacting:
Ontwa Township Clerk, Tina VanBelle, 269-663-2347

**ELECTORS WILL VOTE IN THEIR TOWNSHIP**
Ontwa Township Hall 26225 US 12 Edwardsburg, MI 49112

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**NOTICE OF ELECTION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024 CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF HOWARD TOWNSHIP:**

You are hereby notified to register to vote or to change your address for the **November 5, 2024 State General Election**.

To register, visit any Secretary of State Office, the Cass County Clerk's Office or Howard Township Clerk's Office. Electors who wish to register with their Township Clerks are advised to call ahead for office hours. Howard Township's Office Hours are Tuesday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

**OFFICES ON THE BALLOT INCLUDE:**

**President, United States Senator, Representative in Congress 6th District, Representative in State Legislature 78th District, County Prosecuting Attorney, County Sheriff, County Clerk/Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, County Drain Commissioner, County Surveyor, County Commissioner 5th District, County Commissioner 6th District, Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer, Township Trustee, Township Park Commissioner, Precinct Delegate to County Convention.**

You may register to vote with the Township at the following location:

Howard Township Office
1345 Barron Lake Road
Niles, MI 49120

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**REGISTRATION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Auction**
Saturday October 19, 2024
at 11:00 am

Furniture, tools, appliances, clothing & miscellaneous abandoned items.

Jacob Baber
Kim Bailey
William Bieritz
Woodrow Bowers
Jason Bridges
Charidy Fuller
Liza Green
Jennifer Hansford
Ashley Hanson
Joe Knuckles
Sheilla Marshall
Jeni Oaks
Michael Pierucki
Steven Poff
Dina Rodriguez
Jason Taravat
Caitlyn Wade

Sale to be at:
Eddies Key Lock Storage
26065 US 12
Edwardsburg Mi 49112

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5 and 12, 2024
**STORAGE AUCTION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE**

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street Niles MI 49120 intends to hold an auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur at the facility on 10/21/2024 at 12:00PM. Unless otherwise stated in the below list of Unit #'s the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #D007. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5 and 12, 2024
**L2L- 52457**

**Do you have available jobs?**

Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF DAYS AND HOURS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION**

The Ontwa Township Clerks Office will be open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Open Saturday November 2nd from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM for voter registration. The township office is located at 26225 US 12 Edwardsburg, MI 49112.

Niles Daily Star:
Oct. 5, 2024
**VOTER REGISTRATION**


**Buy and Sell**
**Gov't Surplus - Schools - Farm**
**Business Assets - Real Estate**
1-800-536-1401
AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL
AuctionsInternational.com
FREE Registration Use Promo Code: **NEWBID24**


**THE CITY OF NILES**
**WILL BE**
**FLUSHING HYDRANTS**

**BEGINNING**

**MONDAY, October 14**
**through**
**FRIDAY, October 18**
**7:00am until 4:00pm each day**

**CITY OF NILES**
**UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**


Finally! Satellite Internet With No Hard Data Limits!

And **FREE** Standard Installation![2]

Limited Time Offer. Restrictions may apply.

RANKED #1 BY THE FCC in Delivering Advertised Download Speeds FOUR YEARS IN A ROW[3]

*"You can get High-Speed Internet wherever you live!"*

Plans starting at $59.99 MO. for 24 Mos.

**25 Mbps** Download Speed
25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload[1]

**No** Hard Data Limits

**Wi-Fi** Built-In
Connect your wireless devices at home

HughesNet AUTHORIZED RETAILER

**CALL TODAY - LIMITED AVAILABILITY!**

**1-877-271-3236**

HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.
1 The HughesNet Gen5 service plans are designed to deliver download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps, but individual customers may experience different speeds at different times of the day. Speeds and uninterrupted use are not guaranteed and may vary based on a variety of factors including: the configuration of your computer, the number of concurrent users, network or Internet congestion, the capabilities and content of the Websites you are accessing, network management practices as deemed necessary, and other factors. When you connect to the HughesNet service using Wi-Fi, your experience will vary based on your proximity to the Wi-Fi source and the strength of the signal.
2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.



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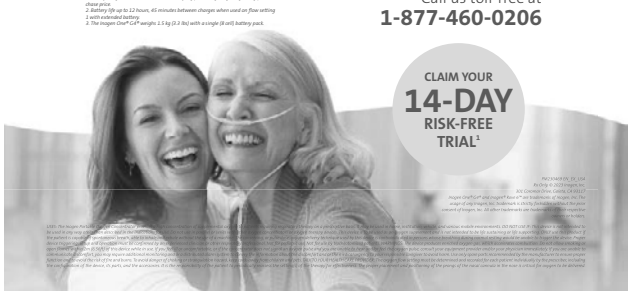
**PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE**

Converts the air around you into medical grade oxygen

Inogen® Rove 6™ delivers up to 12 hrs, 45 min[2] of oxygen

Portable and lightweight. Inogen One® G4® weighs as little as 3.3 lbs.[3]

Call us toll-free at
**1-877-460-0206**



CLAIM YOUR **14-DAY** RISK-FREE TRIAL[1]

# DEALS ON WHEELS

## ZERO DOWN DELIVERS!

## ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

**2000 FORD RANGER STEPSIDE 4 X 4**
XLT, V-6, newer engine and transmission
VERY RARE
**Only $5,900**

**2009 NISSAN CUBE**
Just in!!
Super low miles
**Only $6,900**

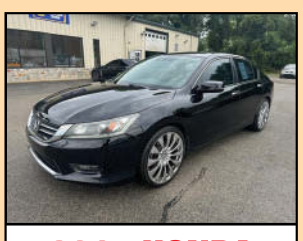
**2008 BUICK LUCERNE CXS**
Fresh trade in!! Hard to find V-8 with every option and low miles too!!
**Only $7,900**

**2013 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM**
Just in!!
Every option, super low miles
**Only $9,900**

**2019 KIA SOUL**
Just in! Low miles!
**Only $11,900**

**2014 INFINITY QX60 AWD**
Luxury for less
**Only $14,900**

**2007 JEEP WRANGLER**
It's candy!!
**Only $14,900**



**2014 HONDA ACCORD LXI**
Just in!!
Every option with super low miles
**Only $14,900**

**2014 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE**
Just in!! Super low miles, drop the top
**Only $14,900**

**2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 4 X4**
Just in!!
These sell fast…
**Only $19,900**

**2019 CADILLAC XT5**
Just in!!
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